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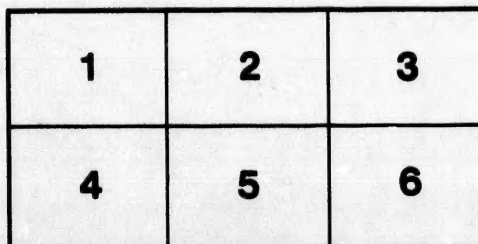
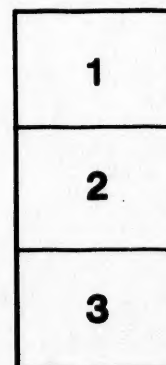
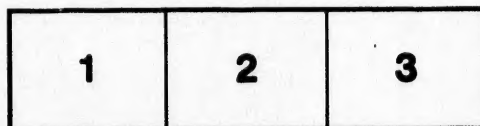
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ADDRESS

OF THE

DIRECTING PRESIDENT

OF THE

WESTERN DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Prepared to be delivered at a Special General Meeting of the Society in July; but,
being then obliged to be postponed, now published agreeably to a resolution of the
Executive Committee of the 26th of September, 1838.

SANDWICH:
PRINTED BY HENRY C. GRANT.

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1838.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

The following Address is unreservedly submitted to the indulgent attention of the Agricultural public of the Western District,—agreeably to the following extract of proceedings of the Executive Committee of the Western District Agricultural and Horticultural Society, dated the 26th day of September, 1838.

“Resolved, that the embarrassments of the times
“having hitherto prevented a meeting being held for
“the election of new Office-Bearers, and it being
“uncertain when that may take place,—and it being
“considered that the publication, in the mean time,
“of the ADDRESS intended to be delivered by the Di-
“recting President at the meeting of July last, and its
“distribution among the Members of the Society, as
“well as the agricultural community generally, would
“be productive of beneficial results, by furnishing the
“public with desirable information on the subject of,
“and creating an additional lively interest in, the pa-
“triotic and useful objects of the Society;—that the
“same be printed in a cheap pamphlet form, at the
“expense of the Society, and distributed as generally
“as possible among the Farming Community.”

W. R. WOOD,
Corresponding Sec'y.

R. LACHLAN,
Directing Pres't.

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ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN:—

Amid the general bustle and anxiety attendant on the late extraordinary events on this Frontier, it was not to be expected that the interests of our Society would remain altogether unscathed; but it has, at the same time, afforded a most gratifying opportunity to a recent settler among you like myself to witness, amid the general suspension of agricultural operations, as well as of commercial enterprize, the existence of a noble, *patriotic spirit* among the inhabitants of the Western District, which, *properly directed*, would be found equally successful in guiding the *peaceful Plough* as in wielding the *Sword* of *valorous enterprize* in behalf of their country; and therefore, instead of my ultimate hopes having been thereby balked, I have been led to expect even more than I before anticipated, and to trust that though our harvest may be somewhat later than might have been otherwise looked for, we shall yet—to follow up the Farming metaphor—have the pleasure of reaping *a more than average crop*, in the prosecution of our commendable objects, as well as in the *enlistment* of numerous additional *Recruits* in our *Agricultural Corps*.

Permit me then, Gentlemen, before proceeding to the immediate business of the Evening, to trespass for a short time on your indulgent attention, while I state, that in consequence of the very protracted interval alluded to, and to the time having more than arrived for the election of new Office Bearers, and my retirement from the prominent position in which your partiality has placed me, I have deemed it my duty, before giving an account of the little that has been accomplished by the Society during the by-gone year and laying before you a state of our Funds, to take a hurried retrospect of the *Constitution* and *leading objects* of our *Institution*,—with a view, not only to the more thorough reviewal of them in *our own* recollection, as far as attained, but to afford such further information regarding those in prospect, as may enable any one present who happens to be unacquainted with, or uninformed on, the subject, to understand clearly, and appreciate justly, the *patriotic* nature of our undertaking.

In furtherance of this object, permit me in the first instance to advert to the meeting which took place here on the 20th of February, last year, at which the Constitution of the Society was matured, and by which the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted :

" 1st. That a great co-operative *Agricultural Association*, for the benefit of the *Western District* at large, be now duly constituted, under the name of "**THE WESTERN DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**,"—of which all Landholders, and other residents in the District, shall be eligible to be members, and that all present, who may feel disposed, do now give in their names.

" 2d. That, with a view to the more extensive diffusion and better fulfilment of the Patriotic objects in view, and as most likely to meet the feelings, pursuits, and circumstances of all concerned, the Society be composed of *Three* distinct Classes,—of all or any of which all subscribers shall be at liberty to become members, on the Terms assigned to each : viz. 1st. The *first*, or *general Class*, to embrace both *Agriculture and Horticulture*, in all their branches : 2nd. The *Agricultural Class*, to be considered limited to *Agricultural or Farm concerns* only ; and 3rd. The *Horticultural Class*, to be more immediately confined to *Horticulture*, including all the Productions of the *Orchard*, the *Flower Parterre*, and the *Kitchen Garden*.

" 3rd. That an annual Subscription of £1 Currency, with an entrance of five shillings, do constitute the subscriber a Member of the 1st or general Class ; and that a similar Subscription of ten shillings, with an entrance of 2s. 6d. do constitute a member of the 2nd. or Agricultural Class ; and that a similar subscription of five shillings, with an entrance of 2s. 6d. do constitute a Member of the 3rd, or Horticultural Class : Each class to be subject to such regulations as may hereafter be deemed expedient.

" 4th. That a prompt Donation of £10 Currency, in addition to a first subscription and entrance, shall entitle the Donor to rank as a *Vice President for life* ; and that a similar donation of £5, besides the first subscription and entrance, shall constitute the Donor a Member for life, free of all further annual payments.

" 5th. That this meeting acknowledges with feelings of gratitude as well as pride, *His Excellency* SIR FRANCIS BOND HEAD'S encouraging acceptance of the honorary Office of *PATRON of the Society* ; and that he be unanimously elected such, accordingly.

" 6th. That the present Representatives of the District in the Provincial Parliament be elected Honorary Presidents of the Society ; and that all future representatives be, ex-officio, Honorary Presidents, provided they be members of the Society.

" 7th. That the permanent office bearers of the Society shall consist of at least *three Presidents, six Vice Presidents, a Treasurer, a recording Secretary, and a Committee of twenty-four Members*,

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with power to add to their number, if deemed advisable,—and of whom a President or Vice President and six members shall be a Quorum; regulated by rules to be adopted hereafter.

"8th. That the gentlemen invited to be of the Committee of Management, shall have power to elect a *Corresponding Secretary* for the time being, as well as resident *Corresponding Members* for different parts of the District, and

"9th. To meet at such times and places as they may consider most convenient, for the purpose of framing a Code of By-Laws for the general guidance of the society,—whether connected with the regulation of its internal economy, the management of its finances, the delegation of inspecting sub-committees to report on prize farms, the adjustment of the number and amount of prizes to be awarded for the best cattle, grain, and other crops, and the premiums to be given for the best fruits, flowers, and improved Agricultural Implements, Machinery, &c. &c. Such rules to be confirmed at a special general meeting to be appointed hereafter for that purpose.

"10th. That, in addition to these rules, it be now determined, that besides any *special* general meetings, there shall be, at least, two regular general meetings of the society during the year; the 1st, to be termed the SPRING MEETING, to be held on such day in June as may be deemed most favourable for an annual exhibition of *Early Prize Flowers*, and the promulgation of the number and amount of premiums of all descriptions to be distributed in the following autumn: The 2d, or GREAT AUTUMNAL MEETING, and PRIZE STOCK FAIR, to be held on such successive days in the latter end of October as may be judged best suited for holding the Fair, the show of Prize Cattle, the exhibition of Prize Grain, Fruits, Flowers, and Seeds, and the arrangements connected with the awarding of the different premiums. These two anniversaries, for more general convenience and benefit, to be held, alternately, at three or more convenient places in the District; so that no two meetings of one year shall be held at the same place, or any other undue preference given to one part of the District more than another: and the proceedings connected with these occasions to be subject to such further regulations as the managing committee may deem advisable.

"11th. That the Subscriptions for the current year be always paid into the hands of the Treasurer of the Society on or before the 1st day of May, to enable the Committee to be guided by the amount in the arrangement of the Prizes for the season, before the day appointed for the Spring Meeting.

"12th. That none but regular members of the Society shall have the privilege of competing for the annual prize; but that, the general improvement of the breeds of Cattle throughout the District being a paramount object with a patriotic association, the use of their Male Stock Cattle shall, as far as possible, be extended to the

public at large, subject to such stipulations as may hereafter be judged fair and reasonable.

"13th. That the *Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and Secretaries* for the time being of all *Agricultural Societies* in both Provinces be invited to be ex-officio honorary corresponding members of the Society; and that any particular member of these or any other *Agricultural, Horticultural, or Botanical Societies*, existing elsewhere, be eligible to be duly elected *Honorary Members*.

"14th. That a *special general Meeting* of the Society, be held at the Court House, Sandwich, on Tuesday the 11th day of April next, at 12 o'clock precisely, for the purpose of receiving the Managing Committee's Report of the completion of their labours, in carrying the above resolutions into effect, and for confirming the same; together with the discussion of such further measures as may be deemed conducive to the welfare and interests of the Society."

With regard, then, to these fundamental Resolutions, allow me, Gentlemen, to remind you particularly that by the 2d, it was determined "That, with a view to the more extensive diffusion and better fulfilment of the Patriotic objects in view, and as most likely to meet the feelings, pursuits, and circumstances of all concerned, the Society be composed of *Three distinct Classes*,—of all or any of which all subscribers shall be at liberty to become members, on the Terms assigned to each, viz: 1st. The *first, or general Class*, to embrace both *Agriculture and Horticulture*, in all their branches. 2nd. The *Agricultural Class*, to be considered limited to *Agricultural or Farm concerns only*; and 3rd. The *Horticultural Class*, to be more immediately confined to *Horticulture*, including all the Productions of the *Orchard, the Flower Parterre, and the Kitchen Garden*."

That by the 9th Resolution the Committee of Management was empowered "to meet at such times and places as they may consider most convenient, for the purpose of framing a Code of By-Laws for the general guidance of the Society,—whether connected with the regulation of its internal economy, the management of its finances, the delegation of inspecting sub-committees to report on prize farms, the adjustment of the number and amount of prizes to be awarded for the best cattle, grain and other crops, and the premiums to be given for the best fruits, flowers, and vegetables, as well as for the invention or successful introduction of improved Agricultural Implements, Machinery, &c. &c. Such rules to be confirmed at a special general meeting to be appointed hereafter for that purpose."

And that by the 10th, in addition to these Rules generally, it was determined that, "besides any special general meetings, there shall be, at least, *two regular general meetings* of the Society during the year; the 1st, to be termed the *SPRING MEETING*, to be held on such day in June as may be deemed most favorable for an annual exhibition of *Early Prize Flowers*, and the promulgation of the number and amount of premiums of all descriptions to be distributed in the

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Without again advertng particularly to the remaining Resolutions, permit me to acquaint you, that in obedience to these instructions, as many members of the general Committee as could conveniently meet together, assembled at Sandwich on the 11th of April of last year, drew up a Report, and after mature deliberation, deemed it expedient for the more immediate despatch of business, to elect a more limited Executive Sub-Committee, consisting of a directing President, and Six Members, with power to carry on current details, and adopt such further measures as might be thought for the interest of the Society;—which proceedings and Report were confirmed by a special general Meeting held on the 2d of April, when the latter Document was ordered to be printed and circulated.

In this Report, to which it is now necessary to crave your particular attention,—for many reasons to be hereafter enlarged on,—the Executive Committee respectfully submitted—

"1st. That sufficient time not having yet been afforded for ascertaining to what extent the *whole District* will co-operate in the objects of the Society, and it being very desirable that this should be satisfactorily done, before attempting any definitive measures connected with the arrangement of the District into subdivisions or circles, and the deciding on the several places at which the annual general meeting and Prize Fairs or Exhibitions shall be alternately held, together with various other matters contingent on that arrangement, it appears to the Executive Committee, after mature deliberation, that it will be expedient to defer the embodying of the *By-Laws* of the Society in a digested form, until after the Autumnal Meeting of this year; and that in the meantime such general measures should be adopted as may seem most likely to advance and insure the prosperity and stability of the Institution.

"2nd. That, with a view to the better furtherance of this important object, the Executive Committee are of opinion that the *Spring Meeting* of the present year might be dispensed with; that the consideration of that great leading branch of the Society's operations, the *purchase* of choice *Male Stock* for breeding, should also be postponed; and that, in the mean time, as soon as the probable

extent of the *Funds* for the season shall have been sufficiently ascertained, as large a proportion of them as advisable should be [set apart for distribution into Premiums, on a moderate scale, for a limited number of the *best Cattle*,—the *best cultivated Farms*,—*choice Agricultural and Horticultural Productions*, and a few other select objects (hereafter specified,) to be awarded at the *Autumnal Meeting* of the *present year*.

“3d. That it being also desirable that the benefits derivable from the Establishment of *Annual Cattle Fairs* in different parts of the District should be put to the test, with as little delay as possible, the Executive Committee recommend their being empowered, as a commencement, to apply to Government in whatever way may be deemed best, for authority or license to establish either an annual or semi-annual *Cattle Fair* in the vicinity of *Sandwich*; if annual, to take place some time in the month of *October*, and if semi-annual, in *April* and *October*; and that the first *Autumnal Meeting* and *Prize Exhibition* of the *Society* be held at *Sandwich* during the latter Fair.

“4th. That, with a view to giving time for carrying this resolution into the most extensive and beneficial effect, the subscriptions for the present year be paid in to the *Treasurer*, without fail, on or before the first day of the Quarter Sessions in *July*, instead of on or before the 1st of *May*; and that the exact amount of the Premiums allotted for each Animal or Article be immediately afterwards *definitively* arranged and a List circulated, with such regulations annexed as may be deemed necessary and suitable, for the Show of the Season.”

Having advanced thus far, the Executive Committee proposed an extensive and sufficiently liberal List of Prizes to be awarded at the Autumnal Meeting, of which I shall at present be content with enumerating the different herds, viz: 1st. Premiums for the best Cattle of every description, including Horse races; 2d. Prizes for the 3 best cultivated Farms; 3d. Prizes for the best and second best Farm Produce of every description; 4th. Premiums for the most choice Fruit Trees, and best Orchards and Nurseries; and 5th. Prizes for the best specimens of useful domestic Manufactures, such as Corn Brooms, and Straw Hats.—Leaving the prizes for young Cattle, Ploughing Matches, Premiums for choice Fruits and Flowers, and for various Domestic Manufactures, such as Canvas, Linen and Woollen Cloths, Oils, &c., together with the Prizes for the best Reports or Essays on the most advantageous and least expensive mode of clearing Lands, the most eligible rotation of Crops, the most satisfactory details of experiments, made for these purposes, and the best Agricultural and Meteorological Diaries, to be postponed to the present year.—After which, the Committee concluded their Report as follows:

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"In conclusion, the Executive Committee beg leave to suggest, for *future* consideration, the occasional substitution of *Prize-Medals*, instead of *Pecuniary Premiums*, at the option of the successful *Candidate*; and they strongly recommend to the *immediate* attention of the Society, that, in addition to the regular Prizes enumerated in the published List of the Season, a *discretionary power* be vested in the Committee of management, to grant *SPECIAL PRIZES*, *even beyond the pale of the Society*, to small Farmers, or Cottagers of limited means, for any new or improved animal or vegetable Production, or improved farming Implements, or Machinery, which may accidentally come under their notice, and be considered by them as deserving of that particular distinction,—the Competitor being liable to have the amount of the subscription of the Class to which such article may belong, deducted from the amount of the Premium awarded on the occasion."

In conformity with a leading feature of these arrangements, the Executive Committee applied without delay to Government in behalf of the establishment of a semi-annual *Fair* at the Town of Sandwich, to be held in the months of April and October; and were, happily so successful, that they had the pleasure of receiving a Charter for its establishment so early as to enable them to combine with the *first Sandwich Fair* the *first Prize Exhibition* of the *Western District Agricultural Society* of the 13th and 14th of October last, and they in the mean time collected and paid into the hands of the Treasurer, subscriptions to the amount of £52,10s.;—which being reported to Government in the prescribed form, produced an increased return of £105 more, making a total of £157,10s. altogether.

Thus far the efforts of the Committee were successful and satisfactory; but in spite of their best endeavors, so little interest or spirit of competition had they been as yet able to rouse among the Members of the Society, that at the Prize Exhibition, the whole amount of the few Premiums awarded fell short of £20.

Small as this was, it was a beginning; and the interest and excitement at length evinced among those present on the occasion, gave satisfactory evidence that though our Plant might be of slow growth, it had evidently taken root, and required only time and *culture* to bring it to full maturity; and it, in the mean time, afforded some additional satisfaction to find, that, after deducting the amount of the Prizes paid to the successful Competitors, and deducting all incidental Expenses attending Printing and Postage, up to the close of the present year, a disposable balance, independent of subscriptions due, remained in the hands of the Treasurer amounting to £125,7s., to be disposed of either in the purchase of choice seed-grain and other seeds, or to remain in aid of the fund for the purchase of choice Stock; but, unfortunately for the attainment of the former of these objects, so much time had elapsed, before the neces-

sary measures could be adopted, that it was found too late to expect a reply to any orders sent to New York or Europe before the close of the navigation, and that vessels would arrive too late in the spring of the present year, to allow any imported seeds to be turned to account this season,—the consequence of all which has been, that this little fund has yet remained untouched, while owing to the paralyzing influence of the late disturbed times, the proper season for the *Spring Meeting*, as well as that for holding the *second semi-annual Sandwich Fair*, has been obliged to be allowed to pass by unnoticed and unobserved.

Having trespassed on your patience with these necessary details, I now arrive at the most important, as well as the most agreeable part of the desultory observations to which I have considered it advisable to invite your attention, namely,—to contemplate once more the great, the inestimable good that may result from an honorable, indefatigable perseverance in the Patriotic objects we have in view,—provided our efforts be met with a corresponding generous and *liberal spirit* by the District at large.—But, Gentlemen, what I have had to lament most, since I have had the pleasure of being domiciled among you, is, *not* a want of *individual inclination* in any gentleman to advance the prosperity of our District, but,—pardon me for still insisting on it,—a general absence of co-operative spirit and feeling, to be traced to various causes, but too frequently, it would appear, ascribable to paltry *local* prejudices and jealousies of the most unaccountable nature; and, yet, believe me, Gentlemen, so long as that continues to be the case, such will be its blighting influence,—be the praise-worthy and expensive efforts of our most influential private individuals what they may,—*that no great public object will ever be accomplished among us.* Not, however, to dwell altogether on the most unfavorable feature of the picture, I would willingly acknowledge, that, perhaps, the means and manner by which the Society may be expected to extend its genial influence, as a great co-operative Association, have not been sufficiently explained;—more than one gentleman in distant Townships having written to me to say that the Farmers round him could not see what possible benefit an Agricultural Society could be of to them; and I would at the same time admit, that during my official visits to different parts of the District, I have myself frequently found the apparent apathy complained of, arising from a very excusable cause, namely,—a total ignorance of the *nature* of an Agricultural Society, or of any benefits being derivable from it; and the instances are not few, in which a little quiet conversation conveyed to the worthy farmer, not only most unlooked for pleasing information on the subject, but left him an ardent well-wisher to the success of our Society's labors. With a view, then, to the farther benefit of any such, who may happen to be now present, let us, with your permission, contemplate for a moment, a few of the many important and substantial benefits resulting from well regulated

Agricultural Societies in general, and then bring the subject home to ourselves.

1st. Then, if entered into with spirit, Agricultural Associations sooner or later produce *among their members* a general desire of emulation in the pursuit of honorary rewards and premiums, of even the most trifling pecuniary value, which would perhaps never exist without such a stimulus, but which, once roused, gradually extends its genial influence throughout the *farming community* at large.

2d. They lead to an increased inclination to observe with a scrutinizing eye the progress of those around us, compared with our own; and, as a natural consequence, to benefit,—*even sometimes insensibly*,—by whatever we at last perceive to be a more successful mode of proceeding than that hitherto pursued by ourselves.

3d. They also conduce to more frequent discussions and interchange of opinions among friends and neighbors, regarding the assumed merits or demerits of different modes of husbandry, as practised by different individuals, and the consequent unavoidable acquisition of additional information and experience on these important subjects.

4th. They lead to the direct proof, through the medium of careful *practical results*, of the *real* value of any *supposed* Agricultural *theory*, ending either in decided approval or condemnation, *after* due investigation,—and, therefore, sure to be productive of *some* good results.

5th. They, therefore, as a natural consequence, have a powerful influence in inducing the introduction and fair trial of new or improved modes of husbandry, either by ourselves or our neighbors,—each watching with jealous solicitude the progress of the other;—but which, without that active agency, would perhaps remain for ever unnoticed and unknown.

6th. Though under these heads we have as yet had an eye to an improved system of husbandry alone, the same remarks will be found to apply with equal force to the gradual, but rapid amelioration of every description of stock, either by the introduction of improved breeds of Cattle, through the direct medium of such Societies, or by the encouragement held out by them to private individuals: and such must be more or less the case with us, should we in time be able to possess a valuable breed of male stock Cattle, and periodical *Fairs* be instituted in different parts of the District, for the exhibition and sale of the produce of our own stock, as well as of others—for of course, the Premiums would be extended to prime Cattle of every breed; and if these Fairs could be so managed as to be held quarterly in different parts of the District, at times so as not to interfere with each other,—and to become local standard markets of Farm Produce of every description,—the benefits as well as *profits* to the Farmer would be greatly enhanced; for independent of the actual bargain and sale that would take place at these Fairs,—superiority,

and even excellence being, in reality, altogether a matter of comparison, those assembled together on these occasions would have opportunities of at once deciding on the precise position in the scale of general quality or improvement which they ought, in their own conscientious estimation, to assign to their own Stock or Produce, as well as what intrinsic value to attach to those exhibited by others.—But to return to the arguments in favor of Agricultural Societies generally.

7th. Though last, not least,—the increased and expanded congenial feeling produced by such Institutions, naturally tend to draw closer the bonds of *social intercourse* among the inhabitants of a neighborhood, and to lay the foundation of valuable friendships and endearing associations and connexions that last through after-life, and serve to cheer and animate beyond previous appreciation, the otherwise often care-worn and solitary tenor of our earthly pilgrimage.

If such, Gentlemen, be a few of the inevitable, happy results of properly organized and well regulated Agricultural Societies in general, it becomes a matter of paramount importance to consider *how far our own Society* may be entitled to lay claim to any of these essential characteristics, in the estimation of those around us,—and whether in the present state of the District, it be so constituted and conducted as to afford a fair prospect of giving general satisfaction.

The general Laws or *Fundamental Constitution* of the Association may be considered as fairly laid down and defined in the Resolutions passed at the Meeting of the 20th of February of last year; but much, very much, must still depend on the materials as well as the workmen employed to complete the superstructure; and, looking to that eventful circumstance, I would candidly confess, that a great proportion of our present Office Bearers may be regarded more as *zealous* make-shift sponsors for the *infant* promise, than (from many being *un-practical* men) as the best or most competent conductors of such an Institution. At the head of this list I honestly and sincerely place myself for, whatever *practical* knowledge I may *hereafter* acquire, I may say, I at present possess none whatever; and that even my theoretical acquaintance with agriculture is at best very superficial,—though, perhaps, from having visited various climes and quarters of the world, with not altogether an unobserving eye, it may be more general than might otherwise be expected.

But, to proceed. Supposing the whole District to unite, what,—let me ask,—would be the best superstructure to be raised on the present foundation, whether as a single Society, or as the head of several Associations within the limits of the District? Admitting the former to be practicable, the simplest structure of a *single District Society* appears to me to be for a general Meeting to elect the Presidents and Vice Presidents;—after which, each Township to nominate *one* delegated Member of the General Committee of Management, or Board of Directors.—But I have all along advocated,

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and considered as the most desirable and efficient plan the partition of the District into several co-operative, say three or four, *Division* or *Branch Societies*, with a President and sub-Committee to each, forming part of a *General District Committee* or *Parent Board of Management*,—as may hereafter be more particularly noticed,—and to have Prizes awarded to Competitors within each of these Divisions, but at the same time giving to such Competitors the option of challenging the whole District, and thereby gaining a higher Premium.—To allow of which arrangement, the *Division Exhibitions* should, of course, have to take place a short time before the *General District Show*.

Having glanced at the general principles on which our *co-operative* efforts might be conducted, I proceed to apply them more directly to our purpose in detail. With this view, then, let us advert in succession to the various heads in the Table of Prizes acted upon at the last *October Meeting*, and at the head of which stands a list of not less than 44 Prizes for the best Cattle of every description.

On so highly important a subject as the *improvement of Farm Stock*, a volume might be written; but I shall content myself with troubling you with only a few words, namely—that in aid of this great leading object, *Periodical Fairs*, similar to that obtained for Sandwich, are hoped to be gradually established in each proposed sub-division of the District, (besides the two great autumnal Prize Exhibitions,) at whatever places may be selected as most suitable; and that, perhaps, the most eligible points for establishing these local minor Fairs, in addition to Sandwich, would be at the Town of Chatham,—somewhere in Gosfield on the Lake, and in Moore on the St. Clair, or Wallaceburg on Bear Creek: and in addition to what will be observed under the head of Prize Farms, it may be stated, that until the Society possess a choice stock of Breeding Cattle of their own, suitable Premiums can be awarded for the introduction of prime Stallions, Bulls, Boars, or Rams, by private individuals.

The next general head in the Prospectus of the last October Prize Exhibition, aims at an improved system of Husbandry generally, by holding out Premiums for the *THREE best cultivated Farms in the District*—than which there is, perhaps, no object of higher agricultural importance; for, though few Farmers may be so pre-eminently successful as to carry off the Prize for any particular crop or production, a reward for *general good Husbandry* is within the reach of every Farmer, and will ever command the willing tribute of applause; at the same time a competitor for a Premium for this highly desirable characteristic, will not thereby be debarred from entering the Lists as a candidate for the prize for any particular crop, either in his own *sub-division Exhibition*, or in that of the *District at large*.

The duty of *inspecting Prize Farms* would have, of course, to devolve on competent Committees; and it would be a matter of seri-

ous consideration how such tribunals can be best constituted, and to define the various points to which their attention would have to be directed in the discharge of such an office.

With regard to the constitution of these Committees, they should, of course, be as much as possible composed of *practical* men, (say three in number, headed by one of the Presidents or Vice Presidents) not *belonging* to, but residing *convenient* to, those parts of the District in which Farms notified for competition may be situated; and their duty should consist of visiting and inspecting the same minutely in all their departments, and embodying their observations in the form of a *written Report*, to be laid before the general Committee and read at the great annual *Prize Meeting*. And these Committees should further be encouraged to ingraft upon their Report, any improvements which they may observe *elsewhere*, and deem worthy of extra notice or encouragement.

The various matters to which inspecting Committees of Prize Farms should direct their attention in this Report, may be as follows:

1st. The name or number and situation of the Estate, and how long settled and in possession of its present proprietor or occupant; the quality of land on the Farm; how much cleared, and what kind of natural forest.

2d. The description of buildings upon it; and particularly those belonging to the Farm-yard.

3d. The nature of the soil generally; and of any particular parts, if desirable.

4th. The quantity of land under tillage, and how fenced; the nature of the different crops, and the extent of each in acres; and also the quantity of *grass* and *meadow*, as well as *fallow* land.

5th. The particular mode of tillage;—what *rotation* of crops, if any be particularly attended to; the quantity of seed to the acre, and how prepared for sowing; the quantity and kind of manure used; the proportion per acre, and when applied.

6th. What farming implements and cattle employed; and what machinery, if any, made use of.

7th. How far the tillage, generally, is of a tidy and cleanly description, and the land, on the whole, kept well cleared of weeds.

8th. Orchards; how situated; their extent and age, and the description and quality of the Fruits raised; how far well laid out and pruned, and kept free from weeds, suckers, underbrush, &c.

9th. Cattle; the number and description; whether of horned cattle, sheep, horses, or hogs; and how fed and managed.

10th. Dairy; description of, and state; how situated; the number of Milch Cows, and the usual produce; and,

11th. Nature and state of the Public Roads in the neighborhood, and the distance of nearest market and mill;—the more remote from these strong inducements to exertion and improvement, the greater being the merit of the industrious farmers.

It may be further observed on this interesting head, that the merits of Prize Farms being, of course, altogether dependant on matters of comparison, they would have to be divided into at least two classes, viz:—1st. Those aiming at pre-eminent distinction over all others, throughout the whole District, and therefore challenging *all*, and laying claim to the highest prize. 2d. Those confining their pretensions to the more limited sphere of a particular *division*, and therefore aspiring only to a minor Premium:—for the same Farmer should not be at liberty to claim both. Of the first class, as advertized last year, there might be at least two,—to be entitled "*the best*," and "*the second best*" *District Prize Farms*; and of the second class there might be at least *two*, in each Division,—to be styled "*the best*" and "*second best*" *Division Prize Farms*. In case, however, a particular Farm should gain the *great Prize*, that Farm should, of course, be excluded from entering the Lists again, either for the *same*, or for a minor one of the same nature for a certain number of years—say 5 years,—but any Farmer gaining a minor or Division prize, ought, of course, to be eligible to compete the second year for the *highest* prize, though if unsuccessful, he could not well gain a similar 2d rate premium, a second time.

The propriety of having some such explicit regulations as the above, with a view to ensure a continued *succession* of new competitors, must be too obvious to require to be further enlarged upon here.

The encouragement of GOOD PLOUGHING became, of course, a natural supplement to this important branch of the Society's objects.—On this subject, it is only necessary to observe, that in the Mother Country, *Ploughing Matches* form an interesting part of many annual Agricultural Exhibitions; and that the effects produced thereby among Farm Tenantry in arriving at an expert management of the Plough, and creating a pride in good husbandry, in general, is very great;—and no where more than in *Scotland*—a country which, in spite of many natural disadvantages, has by a rapidly improved system of tillage, within a very few years, started forth from a state of comparative unproductiveness, to a pre-eminent station of high agricultural character, and consequent well-deserved prosperity.

The next general head in the printed list of Premiums, embraces not less than 43 Prizes for the *best* and *second best* samples of Farm Produce, whether as a *general crop*, or for the purpose of *seed*. On this important and diversified subject, it will be sufficient to observe, that all and each of these crops are, undoubtedly, worthy of particular attention, and that many of them are peculiarly so, as may be more properly alluded to hereafter;—but I may observe here, that Vetches, Hemp, Flax, and Hops, appear to be well deserving of further encouragement, as also Lucerne and Guinea grass, of which I have yet heard little or nothing in Canada. Tobacco is already a standard staple production of part of the District; but it might be still further extended as a *subordinate crop*, though certainly not as the

leading product of any Farm,—for I would have it distinctly understood, that, from all I can learn, I am persuaded that when the culture of Tobacco becomes the principal object of any Farm, it is but too likely, from its uncertainty, to become a curse, instead of a blessing; and for a confirmation of the truth of this observation, I readily appeal to any Farmer along the Lake shore who has, at any time, turned his main attention to the culture of this fascinating plant.

With regard to the prizes for the best seed-grain and seeds: The paramount importance—nay, positive necessity—of the Farmer having at his command the *best seed* of every description, to entitle him to ensure *superior produce*, is so self-evident, that it would be a waste of words to say more at present, than that the different Fairs and Meetings, and particularly the great Autumnal ones, would furnish excellent opportunities for these being collected in one focus, as it were, ready to be distributed wherever most to be desired, or wanted; for, no doubt, *Farmers* having such articles to dispose of, would soon make use of these occasions for making it known, and bringing them forward, either for sale, or to exchange for seed of a similar or other descriptions;—even a simple change of soil being universally allowed to be often productive of the most *beneficial* and *productive* results;—and, on the other hand, *gentlemen* zealous for so good a cause, who happen to possess choice or rare seeds, plants, or fruits, which they would wish to distribute among the Farming community, would naturally take the opportunity of doing so at these meetings, and of at the same time selecting those who would be likely to do the greatest justice to their gifts. I need scarcely add, that gentlemen so disposed, ought to be particularly invited to do so.—And to encourage this desirable object still more, Premiums might be given for the IMPORTATION, in quantity, into the District, of the best kinds of new or rare seed-grains, of every description.

We now arrive at the 4th interesting class of Prizes, namely:—those to be awarded for choice *Fruits* and *Fruit-Trees*, *Flowers*, and *Flowering Shrubs*. With regard to the first branch of this head, the same general remarks may well apply, as have already been made on that of Agricultural Produce, in general; but some reference to particular Horticultural productions, regarded more in the light of *desiderata* than others, may be made hereafter.

With regard to the culture of choice Flowers and Flowering Shrubs, which may well be termed the *poetic ground* of Horticulture, it may not at first appear necessary to attach much importance to it in a young and still forest-clad country like ours,—where

“Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its fragrance on the desert air.”

But, independent of many direct, and sometimes important benefits, resulting from a little encouragement of this pleasing branch of the Society's objects, the fascinating influence of annual floral exhibi-

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tions, will be found equally great and beneficial in an indirect way, as may well be remembered and appreciated by any one who has witnessed, in the *Mother Country*, their magic power, not only in the culture and improvement of indigenous plants in any particular neighborhood, and in the introduction of new ones in endless variety, but in the estimable moral effects often produced thereby in the feelings, and even *minds*, of the amateur cultivators,—for where is that soul-less creature to be found,—of whom, ~~often~~ contemplating the variegated beauties of the Flower Parterre, it could be said,—

“Hast thou the wondrous scene surveyed,
That all around thee is displayed ;—
And hast thou never raised thine eyes,
To Him who caused these plants to rise ?”

Add to which, are we not indebted to these fascinating means, for bringing together those smiling and brilliant assemblages of Nature's loveliest and most perfect work—the *Fair Sex*—which generally grace such Exhibitions, and who, indeed, often become the most successful competitors in the Floral Department.

The floral Prizes are very properly succeeded by those for domestic manufactures, as tending to increase, materially, the comforts of the Farmer's family circle. Among the objects deserving the attention of an Agricultural Society in a few and thinly settled country, must, of course, be the encouragement of the application of as many of its productions as can be made available, to such useful domestic manufactures as can be conveniently carried on at leisure hours by members of the Farmer's family, whether for the purpose of *home consumption*, or eventual *exchange* or *exportation*. Among these, for instance, may be reckoned Canvas and Linen, from Hemp and Flax grown in the District; Sugar from the Maple Tree, as well as from the Beet; Oil from the Lintseed, the Sunflower seed, the Mustard seed, and the Poppy,—the last of which furnishes excellent Sallad Oil; Flannels, and other woollens, from the native Wool; Dairy Produce; and even Leather; as also those temperate beverages, Cider and Perry:—any of which, if not the whole of those enumerated in the printed *List*, might very properly be made distinct objects of competition. In making this remark, I would not for a moment have it inferred, that I conceive that an agricultural country like the Western District, or indeed Canada at large, should, for many a year to come, attempt to assume a direct manufacturing character,—for that, I conceive, would be found as impolitic and unprofitable, as impracticable; but there are many little things, suited for immediate domestic consumption, for which we may as well be independent of our neighbors, when our own productions can be made convertible to that purpose; and among these, are the articles above enumerated. Would that, in Canada, we could muster enterprise sufficient to add, also, more of that important article, Salt,—for which, as well as for the greater part of our salt provisions, we are,

in a great measure, dependant on our American neighbors. As regards manufactures, generally, it will be our business, for many years to come, to export whatever we can with advantage,—whether as mere surplus, or grown expressly for the purpose,—and in return, to trust chiefly to importation from the Mother Country, for whatever we may want in the way of manufactured luxuries or conveniences.

The Prizes for improved domestic manufactures, are succeeded by various premiums for the best reports of practical agricultural experiments on the clearing of land, the most approved rotation of crops, the best general agricultural essays, and the best agricultural and meteorological diaries. This diversified head, Gentlemen, is of far more importance than may at first be apparent; but when duly considered, it will be found to yield to few. In fact, practical experiment is not only the touch-stone of theory and the test of truth, but the parent of improvement, as well as of *new* discoveries; and in no science does it afford more beneficial results, than in that of agriculture. Of the truth of this observation, a whole host of evidences and proofs might be adduced, if necessary; but such is not required; and it is, perhaps, equally beyond a doubt, that there is no part of Canada in which experiments of the kind are so likely to be productive of direct and immediate good effects, as in the *Western District*. To enable the members of the Society, however, to have a fair chance of carrying on such experiments with success, it appears to me that some measures should be adopted for putting them in possession of the *opinions*, as well as *experiments*, of the scientific agriculturists of Europe, together with the later and nearer, and therefore more congenial ones of those in the neighboring American States; and that it would therefore be advisable that the Society should, in time, possess a tolerable *Agricultural Horticultural*, and *Botanical LIBRARY*; but that in the interim, a limited number of the most approved English and American standard works and periodicals on Agriculture and Gardening, should be purchased in duplicate or triplicate, for deposit for reference, if not for circulation, at what might be called the *Head Quarters* of each Division of the District;—and none seem more desirable than the *Gneseee Farmer*,—not only on account of its intrinsic worth as an impartial and successful general gleaner of every kind of agricultural information and experiments, but as emanating from a part of the United States so similar to our own country, in climate and parallel of latitude, as to hold out every prospect of whatever has been found successful there, yielding similar results with us.

The mention of Prize Essays may also, at first, startle some,—as giving, in conjunction with the last mentioned head, too much of a literary character to the Society; but in this, I am little disposed to acquiesce; for I can perceive no good grounds why there should not, at least, be Premiums for the *best reports* of well authenticated, *successful experiments*; and if that be admitted, why should not good

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Theoretical Essays, also be acceptable? The drawing up of such papers, however, not to be by any means confined to members of superior talent as *mere writers*, but to be more particularly encouraged among those who, though less educated, are, in general, far more correct and able observers,—as practical Farmers,—and whose deficiencies, in mere composition, will ever be substantially made up for by the superior value of the well approved facts communicated, or the convincing arguments adduced, in favor of experiments promising to lead to the direct test of theoretical speculations. Indeed, at all events, any trifling defects in language or arrangement in these valuable Essays, can easily be rectified, by the writers submitting them for private revision to any competent member of the Committee, previous to the day of competition. The writers, of course, to be at liberty to choose their own subjects, in whatever department of Rural Economy may suit them best. But, it may be added, that *special Prize Essays* might also be expressly called for,—*even beyond the pale of the Society*,—on any subjects that might be more immediately regarded as *desiderata*, or otherwise deserving of particular investigation; and these Papers ought, of course, either to claim the *highest Prize*, or a *distinct Premium*.

With reference to this arrangement, and to enable members of the Society to be prepared to enter the Lists with credit, either among themselves, or with the Province at large, it would be the more desirable to have at hand among them, the various publications already alluded to; and, in addition to the Prize Medals proposed by the Executive Committee, it might further be advisable to purchase a few standard Agricultural works, for the purpose of bestowing a copy of particular Treatises on successful competitors, in the name of the Society, in addition to whatever may be the pecuniary Premium awarded to them.

With regard, also, to the proposed Agricultural and Meteorological Diaries, it may be observed that, independent of the direct value to the Farmer of a thorough *recorded* acquaintance with the general range of climate and seasons in the neighborhood of his residence, in guiding the routine of his Agricultural operations, there are many indirect advantages attending a more widely diffused knowledge of these matters, which it is the object of this head to endeavor to supply in a systematic manner, by offering Premiums for the encouragement of the keeping of regular *simultaneous* Agricultural and Meteorological Diaries in different *pre-arranged* parts of the District, more or less distant from the shores of our Lakes and Rivers, with the view of ascertaining the comparative temperature of mild and cleared or open lands, as well as of inland and maritime, or rather, Lake-ward situations, together with the usual extent of the influences of the late and early frosts in different places inland, compared with others in the vicinity of the Lakes, &c. &c. Independent of the great interest that would attach to a published series of such Dia-

ries, in a philosophical point of view, the direct benefits to be derived from them would also be very considerable,—in not only furnishing a ready medium standard of the climate and seasons of the District, including the daily range of the Thermometer, and a register of the prevailing winds, weather, rain, frost, snow, &c., but as often affording intended purchasers of new property, as well as Farmers changing their location, the means of ascertaining beforehand, pretty correctly, how far, in many respects, their contemplated purchase or removal will suit their purpose.—Nay, even the benefit derivable from the ascertainment, within any thing like tolerable accuracy, of the general range of the early frosts so fatal to some crops, but more especially to Tobacco and Indian Corn, would soon prove worth tenfold the trouble and expense attending a few sets of observations, such as those contemplated.

Considering, Gentlemen, the very unmerciful trespass I have committed on your time and patience, I rejoice to find myself, at length, arrived at the limits of the desultory observations, which I have thought it my duty to submit to you, before winding up the business of the Evening; and I thank you sincerely for the indulgent attention with which you have kindly received them. If they have been much longer, and proved more tedious than ought to have been the case, let me entreat you will, in the same kindly feeling with which you listened to me last year, ascribe it solely to the still unwearied zeal and deep interest and anxiety felt by me in the success of the objects of your Society, and not to any vain wish to appear a prominent actor in the scene. In the same spirit, also, though retiring from the Presidency of the Society, shall ever be most happy to give it all the assistance and support, in my humble power to bestow. Before, therefore, proposing the necessary Resolutions of the Evening, allow me to conclude these observations by the reiteration of the closing paragraph of my last year's remarks:—

“Let us, then, Gentlemen, henceforward, burying in oblivion all petty local prejudices, or narrow-minded jealous feelings, connected with the pretensions of one particular quarter of the District in preference to others, and uniting in one great burst of generous rivalry in the promotion of the *general* welfare,—with “*SPEED THE PLOUGH*” for our motto, and “*Perseverance*” for our watchword,—look forward with perfect confidence to the WESTERN DISTRICT, ere long, assuming that pre-eminence among the component sections of the Province, which Providence has evidently assigned to it, as not only the *fruitful* GARDEN, but also the *teeming* GRANARY, of *Upper Canada*.”

WESTERN DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY'S AUTUMNAL EXHIBITION.

NOTICE is hereby given, that in consequence of the unsettled state of the District having rendered it inadvisable to call for any subscriptions from the members this season, there will be no exhibition of stock or farm produce this Autumn; but that it is intended that the interesting and important objects of the Society shall be speedily resumed, and prosecuted with renewed vigor and success; and that, with this view, a collection of FRESH CHOICE SEEDS is about being ordered from the Mother Country and elsewhere, for the purpose of being distributed among the members at the Spring Meeting of next year.

R. LACHLAN,
Directing President.

Sandwich, 10th Sept., 1838.